## IN THE CLAIMS:

## 1-5. (Cancelled).

6. (NEW) A method of filtering a collection of samples, a sample being associated with an auxiliary data item, the method comprising the steps of:

distinguishing between valid samples and non-valid samples of the collection of samples on the basis of the associated auxiliary data item, wherein valid samples belong to one or more video objects and non-valid samples do not, and

computing a filtered value of a valid sample on the basis of a weighted combination of a set of values which are derived from input values of valid samples.

7. (NEW) The method as claimed in claim 6, further comprising a step of calculating a padding value on the basis of input values of valid samples, and wherein the computing step is adapted to compute a filtered value of a valid sample on the basis of a weighted combination of values of a cluster of samples including the input value of each valid sample in the cluster and the padding value for each non-valid sample in the cluster.

8. (NEW) The method as claimed in claim 7, wherein the padding value is calculated on the basis of the valid samples in the cluster.

914-332-0615

- 9. (NEW) A method as claimed in claim 6, wherein the cluster of samples is fixed in size.
- 10. (NEW) A method as claimed in claim 6, wherein the samples are texture data and the auxiliary data are shape data.
- 11. (NEW) A filter arrangement for filtering a collection of samples, said filter arrangement being configured to receive said samples and auxiliary data items associated with said samples, comprises: [
- a multiplexing circuit for distinguishing between valid samples and non-valid samples of the collection of samples on the basis of the associated auxiliary data item, wherein valid samples belong to one or more video objects and non-valid samples do not, and
- a filtering circuit for computing a filtered value of a valid sample on the basis of a weighted combination of a set of values which are derived from input values of valid samples.
- 12. (NEW) The filter arrangement as claimed in claim 11, further comprising a padding value calculator circuit for

calculating a padding value on the basis of input values of valid samples, and wherein the filtering circuit is configured to compute a filtered value of a valid sample on the basis of a weighted combination of values of a cluster of samples including the input value of each valid sample in the cluster and the padding value for each non-valid sample in the cluster.